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09/976,345	10/12/2001	Yasumasa Mizukoshi	DP-305538	1726

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	14

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/976,345	Applicant(s) Mizukoshi et al
Examiner Greg Binda	Art Unit 3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5, 7, and 8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on Apr 29, 2003 is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Election/Restriction

2. Claim 6 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 9. Applicant elected the constant velocity joint shown in Figs. 1-3 (Group I, Species I).

Drawings

3. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on Apr 29, 2003. These drawings are approved.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 2 & 4 are objected to because:
 - a. In claim 1, line 3, “a axial” should be changed to “an axial”
 - b. Claim 2, line 2 recites the limitation, “a diameter (d) of each partial cylindrical face”. It is not clear if this diameter is the same as, or different from the diameter recited in claim 1, lines 30 & 36.

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c. The definition of angle θ in claim 2 does not make sense. Claim 2, lines 9+ recites that “an intersection line” is an “edge line of the partial cylindrical face” and then recites that “the farthest point being on a surface of the trunnion at a location where the intersection line [i.e. the edge line] is farthest from the center of the trunnion”. However, the intersection/edge line is by definition entirely on the spherical surface/face of the trunnion. Therefore every point along this intersection/edge line is the same distance from the center of the trunnion. Since the points along the intersection/edge line are all the same distance from the center of the trunnion, there is NO “farthest point” by which angle θ can be defined.

d. Claim 4, lines 1 & 2 recites the limitation, “each of said cylindrical faces has a diameter”. It is not clear if this diameter is the same as, or different from the first diameter recited in claim 3, line 12.

5. Claim 5 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

6. Claims 1-5, 7 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

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a. Claim 1, lines 30, 31 & 36 recites the limitation, "each cylindrical face having a reduced diameter relative to that of the outer surfaces of the trunnions" and "the reduced diameter of the cylindrical faces". Applicant has not pointed out where this limitation is supported, nor does there appear to be a written description of the limitation in the application as originally filed.

b. Claim 3, lines 12, 14 & 15 recites the limitation, "[the cylindrical face] having a diameter less than a diameter of the outer surface" and "the reduced diameter of the cylindrical faces". Applicant has not pointed out where this limitation is supported, nor does there appear to be a written description of the limitation in the application as originally filed.

c. Claims 7 & 8. Applicant has not pointed out where the limitations of these claims are supported, nor does there appear to be a written description of the limitations in the application as originally filed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 (before final), (703) 872-9327 (after final) and (703) 872-9325 (customer service).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168



GREGORY J. BINDA
PRIMARY EXAMINER